Total = 32 pgms - 7 in 1st yr
6 seasons - 5 a yr after

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SMITHSONIAN WORLD
Series Fact Sheet

The first SW program aired January 18, 1984. SW is a co-production of WETA/Washington D.C. and the Smithsonian Institution. The series was originally made possible by a grant from the James S. McDonnell Foundation of St. Louis, Mo., named for the founder of the McDonnell Douglas Corporation. The host of Season 1 through Season 3 was award-winning author and historian David McCullough.

SEASON ONE - 1/18/84-1/9/85

#101 TIME AND LIGHT - The first in the SW series, this show examines how the sweep of time is measured and how man has used light as an artistic and practical tool.

Features: the University of Arizona's Multiple Mirror telescope; the Time Museum in Rockford, Il.; Smithsonian botanist Dr. Thomas Soderstron searching for a mysterious biological clock; and glimpses of Carrie Bow Cay island, the Vatican and the Grand Canyon.

#102 CROSSING THE DISTANCE - Aired on February 15, 1984 this special features an exclusive interview with Anne Morrow Lindbergh. Other segments focus on the Panama Canal, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, the Sandia Peck Tramway, the industrial design revolution that streamlined a society, and the transportation of three Siberia tigers from the Soviet Union to the U.S.

#103 SPEAKING WITHOUT WORDS - This March 14th special features stories on: the language of animals, the messages in abstract art, universal meanings in mathematics, idealized images of Civil War heroes, the clues in a single human bone, and the call of American roadside architecture.

#104 DESIGNS FOR LIVING - Premiered April 11th, this special looks at the development of the American skyscraper; traces the evolution of the space suit; reveals a remarkable "proton" experiment; and tours the historic home of Harry S. Truman, with daughter Margaret.

PBS Information
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Alexandria 22314

Canada

no international number

#105 FILLING IN THE BLANKS - This October 10th special focuses on some of the greatest and most unusual collections in the world and examines the ways in which these collections enrich our knowledge of the past and advance our understanding of the world.

Filling in the Blanks examines a fascinating collection of the aircraft that helped write the history of this century; a priceless array of Asian art assembled by a doctor who sees collecting as an "incurable disease"; a collection that includes one of the world's largest paintings by James McNeill Whistler; and a living collection of American popular culture in the person of Mel Blanc, the voice behind Bugs Bunny.

#106 THE LAST FLOWER - This December 12th program travels to the Soviet Union, Italy, and Kenya to document efforts to rescue some of the world's "Last Flowers" before they are lost forever. This special documents the decaying of da Vinci's mural, "The Last Supper"; follows Smithsonian botanists to Africa in search of "Tribal Medicine," visits a Soviet breeding preserve, and looked at an exhibit of 19th century inventions that inspired American enterprise in the last century.

#107 A DESK IN THE JUNGLE - The season wrap-up special January 9th, takes viewers on board a tiny submersible 2,000 feet under the sea; to the world of 19th century artist George Catlin; to an interview with Smithsonian Institution Secretary Emeritus, S. Dillon Ripley; and finally, to the tiny island of Barro Colorado in Panama, the site of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

SEASON TWO 4/24/85-3/19/86

#201 HEROES AND THE TEST OF TIME - This season premiere that debuted April 24, 1985 focuses on two of the most intriguing personalities of late 19th century America, two men whose lives epitomized their era - the Gilded Age. Artist Thomas Eakins and calvary leader George Armstrong Custer are the focus of this one-hour program.

#202 A USABLE PAST - In this May 29th special, SW travels to England to visit Miriam Rothschild -- a member of the renowned financial dynasty turned naturalist -- and tours medieval Alnwick Castle in north England. SW also looks at "The Treasures of the Smithsonian Institution," a traveling exhibition that was part of the 1984 Edinburgh festival in Scotland.

#203 WHERE NONE HAS GONE BEFORE - In this October 9th special, SW hails modern-day pioneer explorers of the 20th century - Jeana Yeager, Dick and Burt Rutan, Lyman Spitzer and Jill Yager. SW highlights the Voyager flight; the development of the Space Telescope, an "orbiting observatory" that will enable scientists to peer seven times further into space than ever before; and follows a cave diver into unexplored waters.

#204 ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS - Aired January 22, this SW special travels with paleontologist David Steadman from the Galapagos Isles off the coast of Ecuador to the Cook Isles in the South Pacific and on to England, as it shows how this 34-year-old scientist is building on the work of Charles Darwin to help solve the mysteries of evolution.

#205 AMERICAN PIE - SW's March 19th special features four subjects: the rebirth and clean-up of Fayetteville, NC; SW's trip across America to visit diverse and representative American churches; Wisconsin's Oshkosh Airshow at the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) Annual International Fly-In; and exploration into the public and private worlds of America's first president: George Washington.

SEASON THREE - 11/19/86-7/22/87

#301 THE WYETHS: A FATHER AND HIS FAMILY - A portrait of an American artistic dynasty launched SW's third season on November 19, 1986. The story of NC Wyeth as a gifted artist and adored father was told for the first time on television through reminiscences by his five children.

#302 THE PROMISE OF THE LAND - In this June 10th special, SW looks back at agriculture's "Golden Age of Prosperity" at the turn of the century by examining current agricultural practices through interviews with farmer/scientist Wes Jackson, visits with nature farmer John Vogelsberg, and a meeting with National Zoo director, Michael Robinson.

#303 THE ELEPHANT ON THE HILL - The fascinating relationship between art and technology is examined in this May 13th special through an interview with poet and philosopher of science, Fred Turner; a visit to MIT's Artificial Intelligence Lab; and a trip to the Sierra Nevada mountains where "a new breed of artists" conducted a two-year-long experiment.

#304 VOICES OF LATIN AMERICA - April 8th - This dramatic documentary introduces five Latin American writers, from the 16th century son of an Incan princess and a Spanish conquistador to a distinguished contemporary novelist. Highlighted are; Garcilaso de la Vega El Inca, Elena Poniatowska, Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz, Jose Marti, and Jorge Luis Borges.

#305 ISLAM - Season three's final special, aired July 22, offers perspectives on the issues facing the little understood Islamic religion. This special illuminates this religion, exploring its Judeo-Christian roots, numerous achievements, current resurgence, and likely future as a religious, social and cultural force.

SEASON FOUR - 10/24/87-3/1/88

With the help of its new corporate underwriter, Southwestern Bell Corporation, along with The James S. McDonnell Foundation, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and public television stations, SW remains the only American TV series dedicated to exploring the full scope of modern culture.

#401 THE LIVING SMITHSONIAN - This season premier, aired October 24, features five Stradivarius instruments in a recording session: Cajun music in Southern Louisiana; an American Indian powwow on the plains of Montana; Piedmont blues, and the civil rights movement's powerful Freedom Singers. SW takes an inside look at the Smithsonian Institution and some of the people who work to ensure that it reflects the aspirations, accomplishments, cultural heritage and ethnic diversity of our nation.

#402 AMERICAN DREAM AT GROTON - This November 21 special focuses on the story of the Groton School, a century-old college-prep school in Massachusetts and its attempts to create educational opportunities for students across the economic spectrum.

In this special, three members of the class of 1987 examine the impact of a Groton education on their lives.

#403 THE WAY WE WEAR - Actor James Earl Jones hosts the December 26 program that explores contemporary fashion. The special draws upon the Smithsonian's costume collection to see how clothes affect a person's self-presentation. SW examines the unstated rules that govern our clothing choices and looks at how dress embodies cultural values.

#404 THE WEB OF LIFE - This documentary, aired January 25, explores the marvels of the rapidly expanding field of molecular genetics and examines the ethical dilemmas that stem from our discoveries. Through thought-provoking interviews with scientists, educators and philosophers at several of the country's foremost research institutions, this special confronts some of the complex issues now facing genetic engineers.

SW visits a Texas livestock breeding center, a "synthetic" prairie in Wisconsin, and Smithsonian Institution exhibits. SW also speaks with Drs. Nina Fedoroff, James D. Watson, Everett Mendelsohn, and Walter Gilbert, to name a few.

#405 THE VEVER AFFAIR - This March 1st documentary tells a story of the discovery of the Vever collection and its eventual acquisition by the Arthor M. Sachler Gallery, the Smithsonian Institution's new museum of Asian Art, where it is now on display. In this special, the collector's grandchildren and other key players tell the story of the disappearance and reappearance of the fabled collection and recall the remarkable man who assembled it.

SUMMER SEASON REPEATS - This summer encore presentation of ten programs from SW aired between July 7 and September 15th. In order of presentation:

* The Living Smithsonian 7/7
* The Vever Affair 7/14
* The Way We Wear 7/21
* The Web of Life 7/28
* The American Dream at Groton 8/4
* The Elephant on the Hill 8/11
* The Wyeths: A Father and His Family 8/18
* The Promise of the Land 9/1
* Islam 9/8
* Voices of Latin America 9/15

SEASON FIVE

#501 ZOO - This season five premier special analyzes the compelling and mysterious relationship between animals and humans as well as present-day efforts to maintain a bond with the natural world.

"Zoo" takes viewers to the Smithsonian National Zoological Park in D.C. to investigate human's complex reactions to animals in addition to focusing on the development of zoos.

#502 A MOVEABLE FEAST - Former NBC correspondent Lloyd Dobyns hosts this lively tour of American food culture, aired February 21. This special is a portrait of the Pilgrims, Harvey Girls, McDonold's franchises, power restaurants, and new traditionalists who have made American food so colorful and diverse through the years.

Features include an interview with Dick McDonald (founder of the McDonald's chain); an interview with executive chef of the "21" Club, Michael Lomonaco and Maitre d' Walter Weiss; a visit to Colorado's U.S. Air Force Academy's kitchen to speak with chief of nutrition management, Beverli Donegon; and an interview with Alice Waters, owner of the renowned Chez Panisse restaurant in Berkeley, CA.

#503 TALES OF THE HUMAN DAWN - This March 28 special journeys through time and across the continents to explore fascinating and complex stories about human evolution. Anthropologist Richard Potts from Smithsonian Institution and Harvard University's Stephen Jay Gould discuss what it means to be human. Author of Galapagos, Kurt Vonnegut, discusses his view of "devolution." Also featured: Ice Age cave paintings from the Dordogne region of France.

#504 NIGERIAN ART - KINDRED SPIRITS - Airing May 2, this program profiles Nigerian artists whose work is reshaping Western expectations of African art. SW discusses with artists their inspiration from their own cultural traditions and experiences. Art historians provide insight into the history and diversity of Africa's artistic bounty.

#505 THE QUANTUM UNIVERSE - This special (airing June 6) explores how 20th century physics has shaken science to its core with a theory whose interpretation remains mysterious and profound. Narrated by 11-year-old Heidi Brown, this program features scientists and artists inspired by the world of quantum mechanics.

Come SeE THE light!

PBS

1991
WINTER/SPRING
SEASON

January 23

SEASON SIX

Fact Sheet

SMITHSONIAN WORLD (CC) (Stereo)

5 60-minute programs

Wednesdays, January 23, February 13, April 17, May 8, and June 5, 1991, 8:00 p.m. ET* (except Feburary 13 and April 17, 9:00 p.m. ET*)

In its sixth season, SMITHSONIAN WORLD explores the full scope of American culture, with new specials that delve into the psyche of gender, the world of advertising, the future of computers, the aging process, and the history of drug use.

Order of Presentation:

"Gender: The Enduring Paradox"
SMITHSONIAN WORLD journeys into American culture to explore the ever-changing role of gender in American society—from the formation of gender roles in early childhood to the socially constructed roles of masculinity and femininity experienced throughout life. The program looks at the women's movement, fathers who nurture their children, and cross-cultural differences between the sexes, and illustrates the paradox and contradictions of gender through interviews with children, experts, and poets. Producer: Sandra W. Bradley. (January 23)

"Selling the Dream"
Advertising in America is one of the most powerful cultural forces shaping and reflecting our lives today. Viewers get a glimpse of the nuts and bolts of the industry through a Mitsubishi ad campaign—culminating in a commercial shot on location at a Hollywood racetrack. The program also joins innovative historians at the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Advertising History as they collect and preserve ads from the late 19th century to the present. Producer: Steve York. (February 13)

"From Information to Wisdom"
Interviewing key players in the field of artificial intelligence, the program confronts questions about life and humanness. Some scientists predict that computers will become America's teachers, doctors, psychologists, and companions. This episode also ventures into America's classrooms to ask young students the haunting question: "Are computers alive?" Producer: Werner Schumann. (April 17)

*Check local listings

"A Certain Age"

The graying of the nation is fraught with social and political implications. Scientists' current goal for the individual is to die "young" as late as possible. This program features portraits of remarkable "senior citizens," including an interview with renowned choreographer and dancer Agnes de Mille. Producer: Neil Goodwin. (May 8)

"Doors of Perception"

Throughout history, hallucinogens have offered escape for those seeking a way out of the spiritual malaise of modern life. This SMITHSONIAN WORLD episode looks at both the positive and negative effects of altering consciousness—not only through drug use, but also through athletics, dance, art, and religious meditation. The program investigates the variety of ways people seek to change their concept of reality—from obsession and addiction to transcendence and recovery. Producer: Sandra W. Bradley. (June 5)

For information on purchasing videocassettes for institutional use, call PBS Video at 1-800-424-7983.

Underwriters

Southwestern Bell Corporation, Public Television Stations, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting

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WETA Washington, D.C., and the Smithsonian Institution

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